DISTRICT WIDE TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

PART 1

The Weatherford School District agrees to implement the following requirements:

• The school district will put into operations programs, activites and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, and activites and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

• Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

• The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

• In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in language parents understand.

• If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

• The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

• The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out program, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

  Parental involvement means the participating of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

  A. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

  B. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
C. That parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;

D. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II. DISCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Weatherford School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

   • A district committee composed of parents, teachers, counselors and administrators will meet to discuss, design and implement the Parental Involvement Policy.

2. The Weatherford School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

   • Assistance in understanding such topics as the state’s academic content standards and state student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, parent involvement requirements under NCLB, Title I requirements for parental involvement, and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve academic achievement;

   • Materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children’s achievement such as literacy training and using technology to foster parental involvement;

   • Educating teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;

   • Ensuring that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents in a format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; and

   • Providing such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

3. The Weatherford School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

   • Involvement of parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of parental involvement training;

   • Training parents to assist in encouraging the involvement of the other parents;

   • Arranging school meetings at a variety of times, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;

   • Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
• Developing appropriate roles for community based organizations and business in parental involvement activities.

4. The Weatherford School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start and State-operated preschool programs by:

• Coordination and integration of Title I parental involvement strategies with those of other programs and activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;

• Involvement of parents in the activities of Title I campuses, including decisions regarding how funds reserved under Section 1118(1)(3)(A) are allotted for parental involvement activities; and

• Assistance to parents and parent organizations by informing them of the existence and purpose of parental information and resource centers.

5. The Weatherford School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

• Annual evaluation, with the involvement of parents, of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I campuses, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents, and using the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the district and campus parental involvement policies.

• On-going assessment for individual event and training; and

• Parent surveys available at Parent/Teacher Conferences.

6. The Weatherford School District will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:

• The state’s academic content standards,

• The State’s student academic achievement standards,

• The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
• The requirements of Part A,

• How to monitor their child's progress, and

• How to work with educators;

• Parent Resource Center

• Local, state and national conferences and workshops

• Homework Hotline

• Parent University

• School Newsletter

• School Calendar

• Take Home Folders

• Student Planners

• Parent/Teachers Conferences

• District, Campus and Individual Teacher Web Pages

• Channel 18 TV

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

• Each campus will formulate and implement its parental involvement policy in coordination with the parental involvement strategies of other programs and within the parameters dictated by the nature of the individual needs of the students.

• Support a variety of parental involvement strategies as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. Parents/guardians, house parents, and surrogates may contribute through volunteer programs, where appropriate, as will as by fostering a supportive home atmosphere.

A. The school district will, with assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how it implements and coordinates parent programs and builds ties between parents and schooled, by:
• Each campus will provide training to teachers, parents, and other school staff in positive communication activities that can be used between teachers and parents, teachers and students, and parents and students.

• Each campus will outline specific parental involvement activities that will be conducted during the school year.

• Each campus will hold regular meetings with parents/guardians, house parents and surrogates to share information about the education programs, to share ideas concerning effective communication strategies, and to solicit suggestions for additional activities and for improvement to existing ones.

C. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

• Coordination and integration of services to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;

• Involvement in committees and organizations including decisions regarding parental involvement activities.

B. The School district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meeting and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

• Each campus will distribute a parent handbook to all persons acting in the role of parent, whether parent/guardian, house parent, or surrogate.

• Each campus will develop and maintain various avenues of communication throughout the school year for keep parent/guardians, house parents, and surrogates informed of student progress.

• In situations where language translation is needed, the campus will make appropriate arrangements.

Part III. Discretionary District Wide Parental Involvement Policy Components

• Weatherford School District will solicit feedback from parents concerning the effectiveness of the Title I programs in general, as well as the parental involvement activities in particular. The evaluation procedure will include an assessment of program effectiveness as well as a legitimate opportunity to make recommendations for improvement. The results of the evaluation will be shared with parents and Parental Involvement Committee in a timely manner and will be a major component of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment that Weatherford School District will conduct each year as part of its program planning.
Part IV. Adoption

This District Wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Mr Chad Wilson, Superintendent.

This policy was adopted by the Weatherford School District on ____________________

And will be in effect of the period of 2006-2007. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 31, 2006.